

## Issue Paper for Oregon Technical Advisory Committee

<b>Topic:</b>	Status reviews for active USDA Programs contracts	
<b>Presenter / Sponsor(s):</b>	Bill White, NRCS, Leader for Programs	
<b>Issue Statement:</b>	Status reviews for USDA programs is a significant workload for NRCS field staff. A more efficient method to conduct status reviews is needed to shift staff hours to direct technical assistance to implement contracts.	
<b>Action Required:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review & Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advice Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Other:: _____
<b>Background:</b>	<p>Status reviews of active program contracts are critical for ensuring effective implementation of technical assistance and program cost share funds. Status reviews are to be carried out by the designated conservationist at least annually for every conservation plan for each active program contract. The producer is to participate in review on the producer's farm</p> <p>The following elements to be reviewed and documented are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success of practices and systems completed</li> <li>• Operation and maintenance of practices and systems completed</li> <li>• Status of practices not completed</li> <li>• Reasons for lack of progress in plan completion</li> <li>• Needs for conservation plan revision</li> <li>• Violation of the contract</li> <li>• Agreement on practices to be implemented next fiscal year</li> <li>• Need for adjusting conservation system evaluations to reflect actual or predicted effects of the system</li> </ul> <p>An annual status review report signed by the producer and the designated conservationist is given to the producer and FSA COC, and is filed in the conservation plan.</p>	
<b>Progress / Current Status:</b>	NRCS field staff conducts status reviews for active program funded contracts as required by policy.	
<b>Technical / Staff Recommendation:</b>	<p>Recommend a status review process based on self-certification with a 5% random on-site review with the producer. Additional status reviews shall be identified as necessary to ensure accountability for cost share funding. NRCS shall develop a self-certification process and form for the producer. The form will be available electronically and will be returned to their respective service center.</p> <p>Each Basin shall actively implement spot checks and quality assurance reviews.</p>	
<b>Attachment:</b>		